

Falls Church, Virginia 22041

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File: D2004-180

Date: SEP - 1 2005

In re: WILLIAM P. VELA, ATTORNEY

IN PRACTITIONER DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

PETITION FOR IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION

~~ON BEHALF OF GENERAL COUNSEL:~~ Jennifer J. Barnes, Esquire

ON BEHALF OF DHS: Eileen M. Connolly, Appellate Counsel

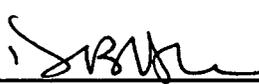
ORDER:

PER CURIAM. On June 24, 2005, the Supreme Court of North Dakota suspended the respondent from the practice of law for a period of 1 year. The Court found that, in an immigration matter, the respondent failed to communicate with the client, did not act diligently in his representation, failed to follow the local rules of the immigration court, and charged a fee that was not reasonable.

Consequently, on August 17, 2005, the Office of General Counsel for the Executive Office for Immigration Review petitioned for the respondent's immediate suspension from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals and the Immigration Courts. On August 18, 2005, the Department of Homeland Security (the "DHS," formerly the Immigration and Naturalization Service) asked that the respondent be similarly suspended from practice before that agency.

The petition is granted, and the respondent is hereby suspended, absent a showing of good cause, from the practice of law before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS pending final disposition of this proceeding. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 1003.103(a).

Accordingly, the respondent is directed to promptly notify, in writing, any clients with cases currently pending before the Board, the Immigration Courts, or the DHS that the respondent has been suspended from practicing before these bodies. The respondent shall maintain records to evidence compliance with this order. Moreover, we direct that the contents of this notice be made available to the public, including at Immigration Courts and appropriate offices of the DHS.

  
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FOR THE BOARD